



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

Environmental Center  
Crawford 317 • 2550 Campus Road  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822  
Telephone (808) 948-7361

RL:0907

## HB 2664 HD 1 SCR N 92-90 RELATING TO ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION

Statement for Senate Committee on Health  
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By  
Jacquelin Miller, Environmental Center  
William Grannis, Environmental Center  
George Curtis, Joint Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research  
Michael Jones, Physics and Astronomy

HB 2664 allows the Department of Health to adopt rules as it deems necessary for the public health and safety with respect to non-ionizing radiation, including electromagnetic radiation.

Our statement on this bill does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

Epidemiologic studies on health risks due to exposure to non-ionizing radiation are difficult to perform due to confounding factors such as diet, smoking, food preparation, and other factors. However, there exists mounting evidence linking increased health risks with prolonged exposure to low level electromagnetic radiation (EMR). Preliminary results from a recent study of New York telephone cable splicers carried out by Johns Hopkins University found that the overall cancer rate of splicers was 1.8 times that of other telephone company workers and seven times higher for leukemia, even though they were exposed to magnetic fields averaging only 0.4 microteslas. Other studies have linked prolonged exposure to low level magnetic fields with increased risk of cancer in children.

The Department of Health should have the ability to establish rules regarding public health implications. Published reports suggest that a 'prudent avoidance' strategy should be adopted based on the current level of research findings. In particular, it is suggested that attention should be given to occupational health concerns of utility workers and other high risk occupations as well as reassessing the placement of television broadcasting towers.